[XXXVIth YEAR.] THE [No. 1803.]

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 2, 1781.

To Earl CORNWALLIS, lieutenant-general, &c. &c.

MY LORD,

IN every finished character there is some one trait peculiarly ornamental and striking; the tender and delicate strokes of nature in the landscapes of Titian, and *the sublime* in the paintings of Raphael, demand our attention and excite our applause at the first blush. Chastity is the leading ornament of the female portrait, and a soldier without courage, is as *entré*, as the statue of Venus de Medicis veiled in rags. Fame has given your lordship the characteristic of your profession, and it is sincerely to be wished, that your attachment to truth was such, as to leave no doubts of her authenticity. An eminent writer has said (with what justice I will not venture to determine) "That he who descends to a wilful falshood forfeits every pretension to true bravery." If an investigation of your official letter to Sir Henry Clinton, relative to lieutenant-colonel Tarleton's defeat on the 17th of January last, detects you in a misrepresentation, and subjects you to this censure, you have only yourself to blame. It is a charitable principle, to impute errors to the head, rather than the heart; and I sincerely wish I could adopt it with respect to your lordship; but it is impossible that your erroneous representation of this action could have flowed from want of information. The loss your troops sustained might have been easily ascertained, by a comparison of their numbers, when detached, with those which rejoined you at Turkey creek. Let us compare your accounts with the truth. "You are apprehensive, that 400 infantry were either killed, wounded, or taken; you are certain that the loss of the cavalry was inconsiderable, and two three pounders fell into our hands; you fear that the colours of the 7th regiment shared the same fate." I wish your regard to truth had been as strong as your fears and apprehensions; you then would not have so far deviated from facts; which are, that 29 commissioned officers were paroled, 500 privates marched off prisoners, and upwards of 200 privates left wounded on the field; 10 commissioned officers and more than 200 privates were killed; the artillery, the music and colours of the whole detachment, were captured; among the prisoners there were 130 of the legion, and a large number of dragoon horses were taken. How widely different your lordship's account and the truth. "*Veritas prevalebit*" is an old maxim, and will be verified in the event.

I am led to call your lordship's attention to the fifth paragraph of your extraordinary letter, from whence I hope, that a reconsideration of it will call a blush into your cheek, and for a moment awake the feelings of honour, sleeping in your bosom. Men of ingenuity generally blend facts with misrepresentations, to render them difficult to be detected; but your lordship, acting with no caution in this instance, has wove a web of falshood, not variegated with a shred of truth. That lieutenant-colonel Tarleton gave the waggon guard all the assistance in burning the baggage of the corps, which could be expected from fugitives, winged with apprehension, is a fact; and it is equally true, that nothing but the rapidity of the flight saved them from the punishment they merited, by so flagrant a violation of the law of arms; but that he ever charged and repulsed colonel Washington, is a boast without any foundation in truth. One would imagine, that Tarleton's prudence would have induced him to have prevailed on your lordship to suppress even the name of that gallant young officer, as it must be engraved on his memery in indelible characters, that with 80 cavalry, the colonel charged, broke, and pursued, those of *his* legion (by your accounts 300) till numbers were killed and taken, and the rest totally dispersed; nor can he have forgotten (whatever pain the recollection may give him) that Washington invited him to a rencontre, *comis et ense*, which he wisely declined, and not glowing "*with that bravery, which had so often led his troops to victory*," sought an inglorious safety, and took shelter among his men!

Though the odium you have attempted to fix on the militia, if established, would encrease the glory of our regular corps, and add to the disgrace of your troops, whilst we have any regard for justice or merit, we cannot admit it. It is the best policy in your lordship to depreciate the character of the armed yeomanry of America, for it is a fact established by reason and experience, that a respectable and well regulated militia is the safest palladium of the liberties of a state.

The militia, who composed at least one half of general Morgan's force, had long been pupils in the school of adversity. Deprived of their property, banished from their domestic enjoyments, and fired with the remembrance of repeated injury, aggravated by repeated insult, a noble thirst for revenge conspired with the love of country to impel them to the field. Some of them had fled from their farms the very morning of the action, after having beheld the works of a painful industry laid in ruins by the very men they had to contend with; others fought within sight of their smoaking dwellings. I ask your lordship, I ask any man the least versed in human nature, if it is probable, nay possible, that men thus actuated and thus circumstanced, whose property, connections, and what is dearer than life itself, hung on the fate of the day, should shrink from a temporary danger, and *realize* their desperate expectations. Resentment supplied the want of discipline, and gave an edge to their weapons, which was felt and lamented by your troops. Their bravery and moderation on this occasion will adorn the historic page, when the conduct of their enemies shall be forgot, or remembered with detestation. Your officers, my lord, acknowledged that their orders extended to exclude the militia from mercy. Fortune, or rather that Providence which protects the votaries of a virtuous cause, disappointed *their* horrid designs, and put them into the power of the very men they had devoted to deliberate massacre. What was the conduct of the militia? They forgot the enemy in the prisoner, and humanity gave a lustre to their victory, more splended than ever graced a British triumph!

What was the conduct of the American regulars? They fought against a corps, whose cruelty had become proverbial, and whose leader, a stranger to the tender emotions of pity, and untutored and unpolished by science, had been heard to use expressions, which a savage would blush to own; has been heard to protest, "that he declared war against humanity and rebellion, and that the expiring groans of rebels was music to his ear." They triumphed, and were humane; bloodshed ceased with resistance, and the bayonet slept in its scabbard. For the truth of this I appeal to your own officers. Many of those captured on the 17th of January declared, with tears and blushes, "that the treatment they had received both from officers and soldiers, had impressed them with the most lively sentiments of gratitude and admiration, and that they should recommend their example to their army, as a lesson of magnanimity and humanity, highly worthy of imitation." This was language worthy of *soldiers*. It is sincerely to be regretted, that there are so few men of liberal sentiments under your lordship's command; but it is not difficult to be accounted for; example is more powerful than precept, and a cruel and illiterate general seldom commands for any length of time an enlightened corps of officers or a humane soldiery!

A man of conscious rectitude will ever promote a free enquiry into his conduct, and no station, however dignified or exalted, ought to screen a villain from the inquisition of truth, or shield his vices from public censure. The glare of a title may dazzle fools, and intimidate vassals, but can never influence *those*, who have sense to think, and spirit to act for *themselves*. In forming *their* judgment of a character, *they* strip it of its borrowed plumes, try it by the unerring rules of right reason, and stamp it with its merited signature. Upon such principles I mean to examine your lordship's conduct, whilst commanding a British army in the southern states. Should the investigation cloud your reputation, or lessen the number of your admirers; should your humanity be found as exceptionable as your official veracity, and the mirrour of truth reflect a monster, I entreat that your lordship would not imitate some *fine* ladies, who quarrel with their limners and their glasses, for not reflecting charms which the parsimony of nature had denied.

When you, my lord, moved in a subordinate sphere, and was the satellite to a superior planet, America viewed you through a mistaken medium; she believed you to be a gallant, generous, and veteran soldier, and lamented that such talents and principles should be prostituted in spreading the reign of despotism, a reign destructive to freedom, religion, and the arts and sciences; for every step a tyrant makes towards the establishment of his iron sway, blasts some useful invention of the human genius, and blots out some amiable virtue of the human heart. The change of your situation, attended with the extension of your influence, stripped off the mask, and exhibited you in your genuine colours. Transplanted to a southern hemisphere, we behold you a *comet*, dispensing death, and marking *its* progress with burnings and devastations. The history of your transactions in Georgia and the Carolinas is a history of cruelty and injustice, unparalleled in the annals of a civilized country. Enamoured of ambition, to obtain her favours, you have made sacrifices more inhumane than those of the savages to *their* fallen warriors. To grasp a phantom, you have trampled on the rights of your fellow-creatures, and stained your sword with the blood of innocence. Your *blessed* administration was ushered in by a proclamation, promising in the most solemn manner free and unlimited pardon, and peaceable and perfect enjoyment of property to those citizens, who came in and took the oath of allegiance to government. Deceived by your promises, and deluded by the arts of your emissaries, numbers claimed the proffered security and protection; sporting with the sacredness of plighted faith, you violated every engagement; instead of personal security, they experienced injury and insult; instead of rewards, they have received punishments; those whose property was an object worthy British avarice, have been deprived of it by the suborned testimony of their slaves, who have been encouraged to treat their masters with an insolence more intolerable than death. Your lordship and your officers have grown rich on the spoils of the widow and the orphan; many citizens have suffered as common felons by your orders, whose only crime was an unshaken attachment to their country, and whose fate will stand a recorded satire against your lordship and the tyrant you serve, as long as virtue shall have a friend amongst mankind; others, without the shadow of criminality, have been dragged from the altars of domestic happiness, thrown into dungeons, and there left to linger out a wretched existence, embittered by every species of distress, without a friendly hand to close their eyes, or lay their ashes in the peaceful grave. Our officers and soldiers, captured on the field of battle, fighting gallantly, have not experienced a milder fate. You have not dared to expose them to a public death, but you have taken as effectual a mode to rob them of life; your prison ships have been more fatal than scaffolds, and the want of bread than the hands of the executioners. Contrary to the custom of war and the usages of nations, you have forced our soldiers to enlist into your service, by reducing them to the melancholy alternative, either to perish with hunger, die under the lash, or to embrue their hands in the blood of their friends, relatives, countrymen, and fellow-soldiers *. If your lordship's heart is not steeled to every humane sensation, the recollection of these facts must plant daggers in your bosom, and thorns under your pillow! Believe me, my lord, the shouts of victory can never drown the voice of an accusing conscience, or the smiles of royalty soften the pangs of guilt! The trophies of ambition are the badges of cruelty, and a fortune accumulated at the expence of justice and honour is *splendid misery!*

Having drawn your picture from the life, I shall leave your lordship to gaze on it; for though I should wish Arnold to expiate his crimes on the rack, I should be unwilling to view him whilst agonised with its tortures!

I am your lordship's
most humble servant,
AN AMERICAN SOLDIER.

Annapolis, July 30, 1781.

* *It is a fact, supported by the testimony of some of our officers, who have just come from Charles-town, and several inhabitants of that city, that upwards of 500 American soldiers have been constrained by their sufferings to enlist in the British service, and are sent off to the West-Indies; yet retaliation sleeps, and I am apprehensive, though one should arise from the dead and say it was just, it would sleep on! Congress have sacrificed enough to a* mistaken *humanity; it is high time they should act a spirited and decisive part; forbearance to our cruel enemy has ever been injustice to ourselves, and if continued will justly be imputed to pusillanimity. America does not vindicate the wrongs of her officers and soldiers, she will find very few mad enough to bleed or suffer in her cause!*

BALTIMORE, *July* 24.

THE thanks of congreſs have been given to the honourable Samuel Huntington, their late preſident, in teſtimony of their approbation of his conduct in the chair, and in the execution of public buſineſs.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman in capt. Moore's troop of Baltimore light dragoons, dated Head-Quarters, Holt's forge, New-Kent county, Wedneſday, July 11, 1781.

"Cornwallis having encamped near James-town, the marquis ſent general Wayne, with the Pennſylvania line, to take their ſtation within a ſmall diſtance of the Britiſh army, and watch their motions. About 300 rifleмen occupied the ground between general Wayne and lord Cornwallis, who were directed to ſcatter themſelves in the woods, without order, and annoy the enemy's camp. This they did with ſuch effect, that a ſmall party was ſent out againſt them, to diſlodge them; each ſide continuing to reinforce, at length the whole of general Wayne's diviſion were engaged; they drove the advanced detachments back to their lines, and without ſtopping there, attacked the whole Britiſh army, drawn up in order of battle, and charged them with their bayonet. The action was obſtinate for the little time it laſted; but the diſproportion of the numbers was too great. The marquis arrived, in perſon, time enough to order a retreat, and to bring off the Pennſylvania troops, before they were ſurrounded, which the enemy were endeavouring to effect, being able greatly to outflank them. Cornwallis did not purſue them more than about half a mile in their retreat, apprehending that the reſt of our army were near enough to ſupport them, and not chooſing to riſk a general engagement. We loſt two field pieces, which could not be brought off all the horſes belonging to them being killed. Captain Savage did great execution with a third field piece under his command, ſituate in ſuch a manner as to rake, with grape ſhot, a ſolid column of the enemy on their march, with which he cut lanes through them, and repeatedly drove t em back with the utmoſt confuſion. The rifleмen and light-infantry were of great ſervice, and gave the enemy ſome very heavy and well-directed fires. The whole of our troops which were engaged that day, did not amount to more than 1200. Wayne's diviſion loſt 107 privates and non-commiſſioned officers, killed, wounded, and miſſing, and 12 commiſſioned officers; among the laſt capt. Stakes, wounded in the leg, and capt. Cunningham in the foot, both ſlightly. Of about 40 of the wounded, whom I have ſeen, but one is thought dangerous. We ſuffered no loſs, of any conſequence, except in general Wayne's diviſion.

"The Britiſh immediately after the action, which ended about 9 o'clock in the evening, croſſed James river. The whole army were croſſed over by the morning, excepting a part of their light horſe, for which they had boats ready to bring them off inſtantly, in caſe of an emergency. Saturday afternoon, or evening, they croſſed alſo.

"Thoſe of our wounded, who were left on the field, to the number of about 25, were treated by the enemy with more humanity than uſual, and were left behind.

"Cornwallis finding, among the killed and wounded, none but the Pennſylvania line, from that circumſtance, and the information of his priſoners, learned, that only that line, with a few rifleмen and light infantry, had been in the action; and found greater cauſe of chagrin, that ſuch a handful of men ſhould have made ſo ſpirited an attack on his army, than of exultation for having repulſed them.

"It is ſaid a part of their troops are embarking for New-York, that a garriſon will be left at Portſmouth, and the reſt probably go to the Southward. The marquis is moving up James river.

"I had the pleaſure of ſeeing the marquis in a moſt amiable point of view, viſiting the wounded officers and ſoldiers, going from man to man, examining into their ſituation, their attendance, their wants, and giving every poſſible care that all things neceſſary ſhould be furniſhed; a conduct, which while it does honour to the humanity and goodneſs of his heart, cannot fail to engage him the affections of the ſoldiery, and endear the name of la Fayette to every American."

ANNAPOLIS, *Auguſt* 2.

Three perſons in the characters of peaſants, on Tueſday evening the 24th ult. a few miles beyond Wilmington, ſtopped the northern poſt, on his way down, and robbed him of his mail.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman with the marquis la Fayette, dated July 26, 1781.

"You will have no doubt received from congreſs copies of miniſterial letters to Sir Henry Clinton. At preſent the plan is deranged, but its continuing ſo will in a great meaſure reſt with us. England was ſo far gone in the conqueſt of America, as to announce to the different courts of Europe, that the four ſouthern ſtates were wholly in her poſſeſſion, and at perfect peace with the mother country. This, it is probable, aſſiſted in putting an end to the ſo much talked of negotiation. I dare ſay, however, the Czarina and the emperor will bring it on again; but, by the bye, this ſaid emperor has the beſt appointed and largeſt army in Europe, and may be deſirous to recover certain tracts of land which were once in his family. Should this kindle a war with France, it may not be auſpicious to us. But let us think, that her policy will manage this matter ſo as to keep the emperor quiet till our buſineſs is done. In this caſe, or in any caſe, we ſhall have the negotiation renewed; and ſhould we be ſucceſsful this campaign, I do not deſpair of a peace in 1782; but one is afraid to decide upon any point of this nature, who has ſeen the moſt likely things turn out contrary to the beſt calculations. Spain is once more employed againſt Gibraltar, and not a little angry with France for not preventing its relief. The affairs of England in the Eaſt-Indies are really tumbling into ruin, as mentioned in our papers. Holland moves ſlowly. But my principal fear from England is, leſt the emperor ſhould enter the liſts as a diſputant, inſtead of a negotiator.

"The movements againſt New-York are in our favour; but will we improve them? Will we fill up our army, and expel, or, if this cannot be accompliſhed, confine the enemy to mere poſts?

"Lord Cornwallis is at Portſmouth with his main body; an advanced party is at Suffolk, and another at Smithfield. About 1000 have embarked for New-York, ſaid to be under general Leſlie; the fleet (49) lay in Hampton road; we are pretty certain of the two battalions of light infantry under colonel Abercrombie, and the queen's rangers, being ordered, and that the guards, and perhaps one or two Britiſh regiments, may go on the ſame duty. They announce Cheſapeake and Patowmack, but New-York appears the preſent object."

Extract of another letter dated Malvern (or Neal-vern's) hill, July 29, 1781.

"It is not eaſy to make any thing out of lord Cornwallis's preſent movements. The fleet with about 1300 troops on board (ſome ſay 2000) were by our lateſt advices ſtill in Hampton road. Since taking this poſition, there have been winds that would have carried them out of the capes, or up the bay. They have pilots on board, acquainted with the navigation of the upper parts of Cheſapeake. The fleet is watered, and the enemy give out, that Baltimore is the place of deſtination; I know not well what to ſay in this caſe. To deceive more effectually, generals ſometimes announce their real intentions; lord Cornwallis has done this in ſome inſtances. Going up the bay is alſo agreeable to the miniſterial ſyſtem. The compoſition of the troops is likewiſe calculated for ſuch ſervice, comprehending the light infantry, or a regiment of cavalry, or the queen's rangers. On the other hand, New-York ſeems to call for their aſſiſtance, and they may be waiting for a convoy, or a ſecond embarkation. In fine, if I dared to conclude any thing, it would be, that they are deſtined for New-York. Nevertheleſs precautions may not be improper in your quarter; but I ſtate the intelligence, and you will be the beſt judge of the meaſure.

"It appears to me, that this ſtate will not be evacuated, nor their deſign of penetrating Maryland even ſuſpended at this moment, unleſs the French have obtained ſuch a naval ſuperiority as to place New-York and Charles-town in the laſt degree of danger. Such an event only, or a certainty that the army here will be too expoſed to capture from ſuch a ſuperiority, can or will force them from this ſtate.

"The Maryland dragoons have been ordered to return, and I ſuppoſe have commenced their march this morning."

To be ſold at Nottingham on Saturday the 11th day of Auguſt next, for crop tobacco on credit,

THE ſchooner NAUTILUS, with her apparel and furniture; ſhe is a new veſſel ready fitted for ſea, burthen about 80 hogſheads of tobacco, has eight carriage guns. An inventory of her materials may be ſeen by applying to Alexander Contee, Eſq; at Baltimore, or to Mr. John Harriſon, near the place of ſale. The terms will be made known on that day. 1 X

Prince-George's county, July 15, 1781.

COMMITTED to my cuſtody as a runaway, a negro man named BOB, who ſays he belongs to Joſeph Matling in St. Mary's county. He is about 24 years of age, 5 feet 7 or 8 inches high, well made, his cloaths are ſo indifferent a deſcription is not neceſſary. His maſter is deſired to take him away and pay charges.

2 THOMAS WILLIAMS, ſheriff.

THERE is at the plantation of John Pavie living at the mouth of Swanſon's creek, Prince-George's county, taken up as a ſtray, a light ſorrel mare, about 14 hands high, with ſmall blaze in her face, a ſplit in her near fore foot and on her near ſide cloſe by the ſhoulder has a ſmall white ſaddle ſpot, ſhe has no perceivable brand, appears to be about 10 or 11 years old, trots, paces and gallops. The owner may have her again on proving property and paying charges. 1

St. Mary's county, July 16, 1781.

COMMITTED to my cuſtody as runaways a negro man who ſays his name is JAMES and that he belongs to Joſeph Howard, who lives about 10 miles from Snowdens iron works, appears to be about 25 years old, 5 feet 3 inches high, born in Africa, but ſpeaks plain, has a ſmall hole in the lower part of each ear, his left arm is much ſhorter than the right; had on and with him, one ſhirt and one tow linen ſhirt, two jackets of coarſe kerſey wove cloth, one pair of tow trouſers, a pair of ſhoes, and an old caſtor hat; he brought with him a ſmall dark bay mare about 12 hands high, 7 years old, a ſhort tail with white hairs about the top, a few white hairs in her forehead, no brand; he ſays he ſtole the mare from a man living about 30 miles from his maſter, the mare is lame and was back ſo bruiſed that I am apprehenſive ſhe will die.

There is alſo a negro woman in cuſtody, who ſays ſhe belongs to Molly Smoot of Charles county, and herſelf BETT, appears to be about 25 years old, country born, appears to have loſt her ſenſes, often mentions the names of perſons who live in Charles county, from which I have reaſon to believe ſhe belongs to ſome perſon in that county. The owners are deſired to pay charges and take them away from

1 ZACHARIAH FORREST, ſheriff.

Office for the preſervation and ſale of forfeited eſtates, Annapolis, July 2, 1781.

Purſuant to an act of the general aſſembly will be ſold at public auction for gold and ſilver,

PART of that valuable and advantageouſly ſituated tract of land called WHETSTONE POINT, adjoining to Baltimore-town; it will be laid off and ſold in ſmall and convenient lots, the ſize to be adapted to their ſituation, and the probable intentions of the purchaſers. One half of the ſum bid to be paid within ten days, and the remainder in ſix weeks from the day of ſale. If the firſt payment ſhall not be made at the time required, it will be at the option of the commiſſioners to confirm or avoid the ſale. If the ſecond payment be not made in time, the purchaſer to pay 6 per cent. intereſt from the day of failure. No conveyance will be made until the whole ſum be paid with intereſt. The ſale to begin on the premiſes the ſecond Tueſday in Auguſt next.

By order, 3 JO. BAXTER, clk.

Office for the preſervation and ſale of forfeited eſtates, Annapolis, July 4, 1781.

To be ſold at auction, on Wedneſday the 15th of Auguſt next,

THE houſes and lots in Port-Tobacco, late the property of John Glaſford and co. formerly occupied by Robert Mundell; alſo the houſes and lots, late the property of the ſaid John Glaſford and co. in Benedict on Patuxent, formerly occupied by Robert Young. The money to be paid down, or agreeable to the purchaſers, if not, they may give bond with ſecurity to pay one third of the ſum bid on the 1ſt day of September 1782, another third on the 1ſt of September 1783, and the remaining third on the 1ſt of September 1784, in ſpecie, or the new bills of credit to be emitted in purſuance of an act of the laſt ſeſſion, at their actual value at the time of payment. The ſale to be at Port-Tobacco.

By order, 3 JO. BAXTER, clk.

Annapolis, June 9, 1781.

THIS is to give public notice, that the ſubſcriber intends to petition the general aſſembly of Maryland at their next ſitting, to enable him by law to record a deed for fourteen hundred acres of land in Waſhington county, and a houſe and five lots in Elizabeth-town, in ſaid county, being part of the eſtate of Jonathan Hagar, late of the county aforeſaid.

8 DANIEL HEESTER, jun.

THE ſubſcriber intends to petition the next general aſſembly of this ſtate, for an act to enable him to record a deed, and make it valid although it was not acknowledged according to the form preſcribed by law; it was executed by Mr. Cravath of Baltimore-town, in the beginning of 1777, when there was no civil magiſtrate acting under the new government juſt then formed.

4 NATHANIEL RAMSEY.

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